

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 3 adding the connector and cable, consistent with the specification as filed as disclosed on page 12, lines 4-8. Since a connector and cable were originally claimed and disclosed, the addition of the connector and cable to Figure 3 is not believed to present new matter.

Claims 1-11 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-11 are canceled and replaced with new claims 12-31.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 7 and 9. In reliance thereon, new claim 12 includes the subject matter of claim 7 and new claim 20 includes the subject matter of claim 9.

New claim 28 also includes the subject matter of claim 7 and new claim 30 includes the subject matter of claim 9.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that claims 10 and 11 appear inconsistent. However, claim 10, rewritten as new claim 18, provides that the lever comprises a portion having a gap so that the lever avoids interference with

the cable extending from the connector. Claim 11, rewritten as new claim 19, provides that the lever abuts against the connector.

Accordingly, the gap in the lever as best seen in Figure 2a of the present application, allows the lever to pivot without being hindered by the cable, as disclosed on page 12, lines 8-11 of the application as filed. Such configuration still allows the lever itself to abut against the connector as the optical module is moved in a direction in which the optical module is drawn out of the cage, as is recited in new claim 19.

The rejection of claims 1-6 and 8 to TOGAMI 6,533,603 and the rejection of claims 10 and 11 over TOGAMI in view of JACOB et al. 5,964,611, are believed moot. Specifically, the claims remaining in the application are directed to subject matter indicated as allowable or depend from a claim containing allowable subject matter.

Since the formal matters are believed addressed by the present amendment and since the claims remaining in the application are directed to allowable subject matter or depend from a claim including allowable subject matter, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

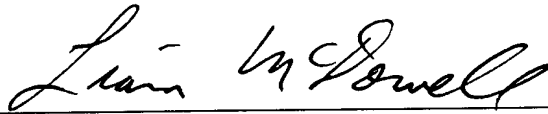
Application No. 10/715,528
Amdt. dated October 8 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004
Docket No. 8017-1109

Please charge the fee of \$88 for the extra independent claim added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

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LM/mjr
October 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The sheet of drawings in the Appendix includes changes to Figure 3. In Figure 3 a connector and a cable have been added.

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APPENDIX:

- one Replacement Sheet for Figure 3